

THE SPECTATOR

The Spectator annual statement

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Since 1828, the Spectator has prided itself on originality of thought, independence of opinion and elegance of expression. We try to avoid editorial balance: our motto is "firm, but unfair". We have only one staff writer: James Forsyth. Most of the magazine is written by our peerless network of journalists on a freelance basis: people like Charles Moore, Matthew Parris, Hugo Rifkind and Rod Liddle. Every article we run is screened by our lawyers. In this era of hyper-scrutiny writers who offer controversial arguments need to be as sure about their facts as they are about their opinions. That's something we at The Spectator pride ourselves on. We have had only one adverse IPSO judgment: about an article that criticised a decision taken by the English National Opera. A complainant wanted to distinguish between the ENO's management (which made the decision) and its membership (which didn't). At IPSO's request, we were happy to make that clarification.

Our complaints policy is simple: we follow the Editor's Code and correct any factual errors. We haven't sought pre-publication advice from IPSO, and don't envisage having to do so. As editor, I'm personally responsible not just for dealing with IPSO but for every sentence in the magazine - even the bits that I disagree with. Of course as with every member of Britain's free press, our real standards are set not by any regulator but by our army of readers who expect the highest quality of argument, accurate facts and wide parameters of vibrant debate.

Fraser Nelson, Editor